



Welcome to:

THE 2023 J.U.C. MEDIA, RESEARCH & WRITING AWARDS

Virtual Award Ceremony: Saturday, June 17



A special category dedicated to: The 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye
In Loving Memory of J.U.C.

• WRITING GENERAL

First Place: Mr. EREN KORUYAN (Türkiye)
Second Place: Ms. RANESHA JAYARATNE (S.Lanka)
Third Place: Ms. ZEYNEP ÖZDEMİR (Türkiye)

* SPECIAL AWARD For NEPAL (Writing/General)
Mr. MANDIP RAM KUMAR (Nepal)

• RESEARCH

First Place: Ms. SİMAY YÜKSEL (Türkiye)
Second Place: Ms. JYOTI KUMARI (India)
Third Place: Mr. S. PERINBA ATHIBAN (India)

• OVERALL EXCELLENCE

Mr. MUHAMMET ALİ TURAN (Türkiye)

• WATER ACTION (New Category)

First Place: Ms. EMİNE KARAMAN (Türkiye)
Second Place: Ms. FATİME ABAKAR OUSMANE (Chad)
Third Place: Mr. NJIKENG TEBONG-JUNIOR (Cameroon)

• MEDIA

First Place: Ms. KAVISHA AMANDI JAYARATHNE (Sri Lanka)
Second Place: Ms. R.A. RUKHSHANA (India)

• WRITING/Türkiye100

First Place: Ms. DURU BÜYÜKBAŞARAN (Türkiye)
Second Place: Mr. BATALP ASLAN (Türkiye)
Third Place: Ms. HAMİDE BEGÜM YILDIZ (Türkiye)

* SPECIAL AWARD BY
ATATURK SOCIETY OF AMERICA
For The 100th Anniversary of Republic of
Türkiye
Ms. ELIF YILMAZ (Türkiye)

PARTICIPATING HIGH SCHOOLS



CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS



ORGANIZED AND PRESENTED BY: The Light Millennium, Charitable Global Human Advancement Organization | WWW.LMGLOBAL.ORG

#JUCAwards2023 | #JUCMRWA | #JUCAwards | #LMGlobalOrg | #Youth | #Media | #Research | #Writing | #TR100 | #WaterAction | #UNWithCivilSociety

“Hope never fades” J.U.C. (2004)

Awards will be presented in MEDIA, RESEARCH,
WRITING/General, WRITING/Türkiye100 & WATER ACTION Categories
A Special category dedicated to: The 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye

On SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023 | TIME: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (EST)
Via Zoom Platform & Web-stream via Youtube #LightMillenniumTV | Booklet #2023/3

MEMBERS OF THE 2023 EVALUATION COMMITTEE (In alphabetical order by last name): Ambassador Rodrigo A. Carazo (Chair),
Members: Prof. Sibel Erol, Prof. Edward Foster, Prof. Gary M. Grossman, Prof. Günay Smith, Hande Subaşilar, and Ph.D., Prof. Olcay Ünver
Project Author & Director: Bircan Ünver, M.A.

Important: This Virtual Award Ceremony will be live-streamed and video-recorded.



The
LIGHT MILLENNIUM
Charitable Global Human Advancement Organization
Associated with the United Nations Department of
Global Communications



#JUCAwards2023 #JUCMRWA2023 #Media #Reserch #Writing #Türkiye100 #WaterAction #Youth #LMGlobalOrg #lightmillennium
#UNWithCivilSociety

For more information, please email to: JUCAWARDS@lightmillennium.org
WWW.LMGLOBAL.ORG | WWW.TURKISHLIBRARY.US

Program Title: Virtual Award Ceremony of
The 2023 J.U.C. MEDIA, RESEARCH AND WRITING AWARDS
A Special category dedicated to: The 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye

Author of the Concept: BİRCAN ÜNVER

2023 J.U.C Awards Booklet#3 & Banners designed by: BİRCAN ÜNVER

The Virtual Award Ceremony is organized in “Memory of John Unver Culkin” to announce the results of the 2023 J.U.C. MEDIA, RESEARCH AND WRITING AWARDS Project, which was initially introduced at Sunlight Studio – Studio–G in Manhattan, New York on Wednesday, January 29, 2020.

Organized, & Presented by: The Light Millennium, Inc. – A Charitable Global Human Advancement Organization | Status#501-c-3 – New York, 2001.

• **Contributors to the Committee:** Ms. Demet Demirkaya, Board Member, LMGlobal.Org (Outreach);
Mustafa Alp Can (Certificates)

• **SPECIAL THANKS** to the 2023 Chair and the Members of the Evaluation Committee (In alphabetical order by last name):

Chair: **Ambassador Rodrigo A. Carazo** - Members: **Prof. Sibel Erol, Prof. Edward Foster, Prof. Gary M. Grossman, Prof. Günay Smith, Hande Subaşilar, Ph.D., Prof. Olcay Ünver, Bircan Ünver, M.A.**

Also to: **Prof. Sibel Erol, for her contribution, specifically into this Booklet#3.**

• **International Student Coordinators:**

Sude Çapoğlu, Türkiye; Student Coordinator, 2021 First Place Recipient in *Writing* category;

Deepak Kumar, India Coordinator, LMGlobal.Org’s Representative in India;

Manoj Ram, India Coordinator with Deepak Kumar;

Lyonga Jewis, Cameroon, LMGlobal.Org’s Representative in Cameroon & Outreach Coordinator

CONTACT via emails: JUCAWARDS@lightmillennium.org | EVENT@lightmillennium.org

Your generous tax-exempt donations are payable to:

The Light Millennium, Inc. with a note in the MEMO section: for the “J.U.C. AWARDS”.

Mailing address of The Light Millennium: 87-82 115th Street, Richmond Hill, NY, 11418, USA.

Tel: 718-441-3816 (land-line) Skype #lightmillennium | Zoom #The Light Millennium

Websites: www.lmglobal.org | www.turkishlibrary.us | www.lightmillennium.org

Social Media: LinkedIn @The Light Millennium | @Bircan Unver |

Facebook @lightmillennium | Twitter @lightmillennium | @bircanunver | Instagram@unverbircan

Hashtags

#JUCAwards2023 #JUCMRWA2023 #Media #Reserch #Writing #Türkiye100 #WaterAction #Youth #LMGlobalOrg #lightmillennium

#UNWithCivilSociety

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Virtual Award Ceremony: Saturday, June 17



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Tentative] P R O G R A M M E ~ On Saturday, JUNE 17, 2023

TIME Zones: 11:00 a.m. EST (USA/Canada) | 16:00 CM | 17:00 Chad | 18:00 TR | 20:30 IN & SL | 20:45 Nepal

• Video: **OPENING MUSIC** (Piano performance) by Mr. **ARES ECOS**, Etude Op. 25 No.2 in F minor by Frédéric Chopin

• **WELCOME REMARKS** by: (Mother of J.U.C.) Ms. **BİRCAN ÜNVER**, M.A. Founder-President, TV Producer & Head Rep. of The Light Millennium, Charitable Global Human Advancement Organization to the United Nations Department of Global Communications

• **OPENING REMARKS: Ambassador Mr. RODRIGO A. CARAZO**, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations (2018 – 2022); Chair, Evaluation Committee, 2023 J.U.C. Awards; Member, UN Human Rights Council (2023); President, 2022 UNICEF Executive Committee (2022)

• **OPENING REMARKS: Mr. RAMU DAMODARAN**, The First Chief of the United Nations Academic Impact initiative (2010-2021).

➤ A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO J.U.C.: READINGS OF SHORT PIECES WRITTEN BY J.U.C.

• Mr. **ALAZ SUBAŞILAR**, “Mr. Virus” (2001, poem)

• Mr. **ALP CAN**, “The 8th Continent Discovered” (2002);

• Ms. **SUDE ÇAPOĞLU**, 2001, First Place Winner, in the Writing Category; “Welcome to Ancient Egypt” (2004)

Presenter: **BİRCAN ÜNVER**

• **EVALUATION PROCESS & GENERAL INFO ON THE AWARDS: Prof. SİBEL EROL**, Clinical Professor, Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies New York University.

AND, THE WINNERS ARE...

• **INTRODUCER & PRESENTERS OF THE AWARDS** in:

Overall Excellence and the First Place Winners in each category, will have one-minute speaking time.

• MEDIA

Second Place: Ms. **R.A. RUKHSHANA** M#2: “My Favorite SDG#7” Velammal Vidyalaya, CBSE, Chennai, India

First Place: Ms. **KAVISHA AMANDI JAYARATHNE** M#1: “See the Human” (Gender Equality), Whyteleaf Performing Arts Academy, Sri Lanka

• Viewing the first place video, “See the Human”

Presenter: Prof. **SİBEL EROL**

• RESEARCH

Third Place: Mr. S. **PERINBA ATHIBAN** R#4: “Artificial Intelligence: The Shining Star of Modern Technology,” XII Standard in Velammal Vidyalaya, Ayanambakkam, Chennai, India

Second Place: Ms. **JYOTI KUMARI** R#2: “Covid-19: Disastrous Invention of the 21st Century,”

ST. Paul’s Modern School, Bokaro Thermal, Bokaro, Jharkhand, India

First Place: Ms. **SİMAY YÜKSEL** R#5: “Stem Cells: A Promising Hope for the Future,”
TED College, Ankara, Türkiye

• Presenter: **HANDE SUBAŞILAR**, Ph.D, Art Historian, Caldwell University, New Jersey, USA.

• **WATER ACTION**

Third Place: Mr. **NIJKENG TEBONG-JUNIOR** WAA#2: “Stop Deforestation in Çonnection with Groundwater,”
St. Theresa collages Molyko Buea, Cameroon

Second Place: Ms. **FATIME ABAKAR OUSMANE** WAA#1: “Water For All,”
Féminin High School level 1ere Scientific from Ndjamen, Chad

First Place: Ms. **EMİNE KARAMAN** #WAA3 (W3/G): “Water as a Source of Life” (Shorty Story),
Darüşşafaka High School, İstanbul, Türkiye

• Video - Presenter: Prof. **OLCAY ÜNVER**, Arizona State University, Vice-Chair UN-Water (2018-2020) & Senior Water Advisor, UN-FAO

• **WRITING/GENERAL**

Third Place: Ms. **ZEYNEP ÖZDEMİR** WG#15: “A Boarding School in Space”(Short story),
Darüşşafaka High School, İstanbul, Türkiye

Second Place: Ms. **RANEESHA JAYARATNE** WG#9 – Theme: “If you became the President of the World...”,
Whyteleafe Performing Arts Academy, Sri Lanka

First Place: Mr. **EREN KORUYAN** WG#4: Theme: Ancient Civilizations: “Dedicated To All Those Striving For Freedom” (Short Story),
Darüşşafaka High School, İstanbul, Türkiye

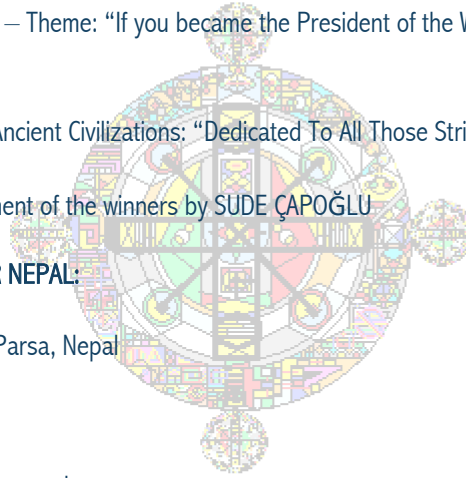
• Introduction by Prof. **SİBEL EROL** | Announcement of the winners by **SUDE ÇAPOĞLU**

➤ **WRITING/GENERAL SPECIAL AWARD FOR NEPAL:**

Mr. **MANDIP RAM KUMAR** WG#5: “Equality,”
Shree Nepal Rastriya National School, Mahuwan, Parsa, Nepal
Presenter: **BİRCAN ÜNVER**

➤ **HONORARY SPEAKER:**

Dr. SERPİL TUNÇER, Ph.D., Board Member and
Head of History and Culture Commission at Darüşşafaka Foundation



Dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye

• Video: Piano Performance by **KORKMAZ CAN SAĞLAM**, 10 Etudes on Aksak Rhythms - No.1 Vivo
by A. Adnan Saygun (1907-1991); 2021 J.U.C. Awards Second Place Winner in Media Category.

• Video: **HONORARY SPEAKER** ~ A Special Message on the 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye by
Ambassador **Mr. ERTUĞRUL APAKAN**, Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations (2009-2012);
Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (2014 – 2019)

➤ **WRITING/TÜRKİYE100**

➤ Brief Description and Announcement of the Awards by **Ambassador RODRIGO A. CARAZO**, Chair, Evaluation Committee

Third Place: Ms. **HAMİDE BEGÜM YILDIZ** WTR#5: “A Look at the Treatment of Turkish Women Throughout the Years,”
Darüşşafaka High School, İstanbul, Türkiye

Second Place: Mr. **BATURALP ASLAN** WTR#2: “Naiveté of Vision,”
TED Ankara College Foundation Private High School, Ankara, Türkiye

First Place: Ms. **DURU BÜYÜKBAŞARAN** W1/TR100: “Peace at Home, Peace in the World,”
Ankara University Developmental Foundation Private Anatolian High School (ANKÜ), Ankara, Türkiye

➤ **SPECIAL AWARD by THE ATATÜRK SOCIETY OF AMERICA** - presented by the Atatürk Society of America

On the 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye

Special Award: Ms. **ELİF YILMAZ** W#3/TR100: “The 100th Anniversary of Republic of Turkey,”

Darüşşafaka High School, Istanbul, Türkiye

➤ **THE AWARD FOR OVERALL EXCELLENCE**

Introduction and announcement of the award by the Chair, Ambassador CARAZO

Overall Excellence Award: Mr. **MUHAMMET ALİ TURAN**

Writing#7/Türkiye100: “Same Mindset in Different Centuries,”

Şehit Velit Bekdaş Anatolian High School, Ankara, Türkiye

- **CONCLUDING REMARKS by Emeritus Professor GARY M. GROSSMAN**
School for the Future of Innovation in Society at Arizona State University, U.S.A.
- **CLOSING REFLECTIONS BY THE CHAIR**
- **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, THANK YOU NOTES & LOGISTICS by BİRCAN ÜNVER**
- **CLOSING ALL TOGETHER: Screenshots with ALL Guests**



(Story)
The Legends of Altifia

by John Unver CULKIN

"A heart of steel and a mind of iron can defend you from any weapon!"

January Twelfth 2043, three years after the Space Elevator.

There was a discovery under the sands of Egypt. An ancient tomb destroyed from floods and battle changed the way we look at the lost civilization of Egypt today. In the tomb were hieroglyphics that spell the word "altifia." Strange statues were everywhere in the tomb. 6 weeks after the discovery, thousands of people everywhere were researching Egypt. Although while you were searching the tomb, you accidentally got trapped in the tomb with nothing but a bag pack you must rely on your wits to escape.



Three of the first tomb where the statues are Altifia was a man of 60 when he discovered how to end the locust plague in Egypt. That was the first time he felt noticed in the world. So he got the inspiration to make medicine and to care diseases. He also created the first healthy eating triangle, which made people live longer and get inspiration, which started the golden ages of Egypt.

Chapter#2: In Room

Three of the first tomb where the statues are Altifia was a man of 60 when he discovered how to end the locust plague in Egypt. That was the first time he felt noticed in the world. So he got the inspiration to make medicine and to care diseases. He also created the first healthy eating triangle, which made people live longer and get inspiration, which started the golden ages of Egypt.

Chapter#3: In Room

Tomb 2 where there are coats (or roots) of armor on the floor

At 107th year of Egypt, a giant flood hit Egypt from the Nile and so did an unknown civilization attack. Although, Altifia had a plan. He spread it across Egypt. They did a fake surrender to the unknown civilization. They escaped and got hold of that civilization to come Egypt. Then the flood destroyed hold of the Egyptian enemies and the main enemy was weak enough to defeat. That's why nobody discovered Egypt's enemy to help the future of Egypt in war he wrote a poem, "A heart of steel and a mind of iron can defend you from any weapon."

-- John Unver Culkin was born in 1997, and attending to the 4th Grade. (*As it was posted in 2006.*)

Source: https://www.lightmillennium.org/2007_20th/juc_altifia.html

Photo: Bircan Ünver, Giza, November 2022

©This story was written by John Unver Culkin as a video-game story-plot on October 8, 2006 in Queens, New York. The Light Millennium, Inc.



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Media Release | June 1, 2023

LMGLOBAL.ORG PROUDLY ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF THE 2023 J.U.C. MEDIA, RESEARCH & WRITING AWARDS

[LMGlobal.Org, June 1, 2023, New York] The Light Millennium, Charitable Global Human Advancement Organization proudly announces the Winners of the 2023 J.U.C. Awards in Media, Research, and Writing Categories. This is the second time this bi-annual international competition was held.
#JUCAwards2023 #JUCMRWA #JUCAwards

In the 2023 J.U.C. Awards' CALL to the international high school students, received applications from the following countries (alphabetic order): Cameroon, Chad, India (Bokara, Chennai, Tamul Nadi), Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Türkiye (Adana, Ankara, Istanbul).

The high schools that encouraged and supported their students' participation are: Darüşşafaka Society "Equal Opportunity in Education since 1863" Istanbul, Türkiye; Whyteleafe Performing Arts Academy (Kohuwala, Sri Lanka); St. Paul's Modern School, Bokara Thermal, India.

Further, in order to get the word out to a diverse audience of participants, the LMGlobal.Org collaborated with civil society organizations, in particular, in India, Nepal, and Chad such as:

Smile4Millions (India), The Institution of Green Engineers | IGEN (India), Forlamy Dreams Association | FDA (Chad); and also Atatürk Society of America (USA), in connection with the Writing/Türkiye100 Category.

Although the 2023 J.U.C. Awards aimed to reach out to both the U.S.-based and international high schools, there was no entry from the US. This created a pool of applicants whose native languages are not English. As a result, this year, all participating essays as well as research, and media-based projects are written and produced by students who use English as a second language.

This year, while the majority of submissions were for the Writing/General Category, the Media Category received the least number of submissions.

The 2023 J.U.C. Awards Evaluation Committee (E.C.) consists of (9) members. The E.C. agreed on an "Evaluation Criteria" form, which has been used in the evaluation of all submissions.

Further, there are two new categories added to this year's competition: the 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye entitled #Türkiye100, along with a category entitled #WaterAction, in support of the United Nations' Water Action Decade (2018-2028) Agenda. Additionally, during the evaluation process, two new awards were added to the ones already announced, all of which are to be presented during the upcoming Virtual Award Ceremony on June 17, 2023. One of these additional awards will be given by the Atatürk Society of America for the Writing-General/Türkiye100 Category; and the second one by the LMGlobal.Org to the best submission received from Nepal. With these additions, a total seventeen awards will be presented at the awards ceremony.

The LMGlobal.Org posted all the eligible submissions with a submission code under each related submitted category on May 7, 2023. This list will be updated with the results, following the Award Ceremony on June 17, 2023.

As a bi-annual international program of the LMGlobal.Org, the J.U.C. Awards firstly aims at encouraging student learning, research and creativity. It also encourages student engagement with the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals and projects working toward those goals. Finally, it works toward fostering international collaborations and partnerships, for which the collaborations of 2023 are a good example. The 2023 Awards were particularly targeted to soliciting submissions from international high school students who study English as a second language. This goal was added to the Guidelines at an informative feedback meeting, hosted by Ms. Sude Capoglu on May 20, 2022. Ms. Capoglu is the First Place recipient in the Writing Category, announced on June 4, 2021.

Four volunteer student coordinators contributed to the outreach efforts of the 2023 J.U.C. Awards. They are Sude Çapoğlu, Türkiye; Student Coordinator, 2021 First Place Recipient in Writing category; Deepak Kumar, India Coordinator, LMGlobal.Org's Representative in India (2021, Third Place recipient in Media category); Manoj Ram, India Coordinator with Deepak Kumar; and Lyonga Jewis, Cameroon, LMGlobal.Org's Representative in Cameroon & Outreach Coordinator.

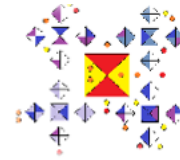
The 2023 Evaluation Committee consisted of nine (9) members who are predominantly U.S.-based professors and academicians. The Committee is chaired by Ambassador Rodrigo A. Carazo of Costa Rica to the United Nations (2018-2022), and member of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva (2023).

The Members of the 2023 Evaluation Committee are Prof. Olcay Ünver, Professor of Practice, Polytechnic Sch ERM Prgm., Senior Global Futures Scientist, and Scholars Affiliate, Melikian Center at Arizona State University; Prof. Sibel Erol, Clinical Professor, Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies New York University; Prof. Edward Foster, Professor of History and Associate Dean for Administration in the College of Arts and Letters at the Stevens Institute of Technology (Retired); Prof. Gunay Smith, Professor of Biological and Chemical Sciences at Southside Virginia Community College (Retired); Prof. Gary M. Grossman, Arizona State University (Retired); Hande Subasilar, Ph.D., Adj. Assistant Professor, Caldwell University; Mildred VanBergen, Ph.D., Director of Academic Support Services for the Long Island location of Empire State University; and Bircan Ünver, M.A., Author of the project and Director, LMGlobal.Org.

Contributors to the Committee: Demet Demirkaya, Board Member, LMGlobal.Org (Outreach); Mustafa Alp Can (Certificates)

Source: <https://www.lmglobal.org/2023/06/01/lmglobal-org-proudly-announces-the-winners-of-the-2023-j-u-c-media-research-writing-awards/>





CONCEPT NOTE: “HOPE NEVER FADES...”

Since **John Ünver Culkın’s** (J.U.C.) sudden departure, my whole attempt has been to transform my love for him along with my deep sorrow and pain into a constructive path, as his spiritual guidance helps me and makes me feel like he is watching over this project established in his name, to inspire talented children and youth. Consequently, I feel as if he will turn to me with a beautiful smile, and say: **“Mom, did you create this project in my name? Thanks, Mom.”** *

As I almost hear his voice in my mind and imagine hearing it for many years to come, I expect that holding the competition and encouraging young achievement through it, will also help me hold on to life and make me happy. To have John Ünver Culkın’s name kept alive and to keep his memory with us for many years to come through this competition dedicated to him that would have made him happy, too.

This realization along with my inner guidance, gave me all the strength I needed to undertake this project through the LMGlobal.Org after it was introduced on January 29, 2020. As a result of that, we were able to present the first J.U.C. Virtual Awards Ceremony on June 4, 2021. It was the utmost challenging time to reach out and bring in submissions because the first competition also overlapped with the breakout of the Covid-19 Pandemic. As J.U.C.’s Mother, I was determined to have the competition and awards ceremony. Eventually, we were able to hold the competition and to successfully share the results. By then, I felt as if a thick cement block was lifted off my chest, which gave me the courage to undertake this year’s competition.

While I was going through external drives in an attempt to locate J.U.C.’s writings, which I did until June 10, 2023, I found 2 of J.U.C.’s papers, which were written for his classes at LaGuardia. Especially, one of the two, I am still under the influence of, which is titled, “The Wheel of Existence”. He wrote it for his class after visiting the Rubin Museum in New York City, dated, December 10, 2018!

In this paper, J.U.C. analyzes each of the six realms in the “Wheel of Life” picture, and expresses that he found this one is as the most impressive piece at the museum, and amazed by how the entire Buddhist doctrine could be put in one-single painting! Since yesterday, I’ve been thinking that he has been inspired by the “Wheel of Existence” for his last design (December 17, 2019), which has become the logo of this Project! Since his passing on December 23**, 2019, he has always been in my mind, heart, and daily life regardless of wherever I am... It may sound strange that I am still holding on to the hope he gave me at the age of 7: And, I am still learning from and inspired by him and his writings like his paper, “Wheel of Existence,” and by his words, both written on paper and in my mind. The first 2021 J.U.C. Awards, and this current competition cycle have been helping me keep my hope and love, expanding the borders of my immediate family and close circle of friends to the kids and youth, *to a global family.*

When I look back from late December 2019 to today, it seems as if the entire world has turned more disastrous and catastrophic than ever, and almost everyone in this world, has lost someone from their family or friend groups. Even after understanding the ubiquity of loss, I will hang on to hope rather than to pessimism or dystopia..., as long as my life permits. We all need to hold on to hope and, work towards the realization of the things we hoped for! Otherwise, if we cannot do something good in life whatever that may be, then what is the worth of living?

Through this Project, I’ve met several bright young minds internationally, which also straightens my hopes in the younger generations and the future of humanity. Via the 2023 J.U.C. Awards, it is now my hope to sustain and carry out this Project on a bi-annual basis for many years to come, and to expand and touch further those kids and youth, living in all parts of the world, in positive, constructive, and inspirational ways- albeit with a touch as light as a snowflake or a flying feather in the air- through The Light Millennium, Inc. – A charitable Global Human Advancement Organization.

As the saying goes: "While one hope dies, thousands may be reborn."

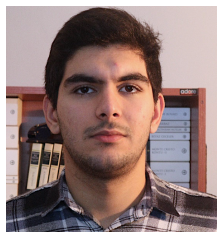
— Bircan Ünver, Mother of J.U.C. - January 30, 2020 Initial concept is updated on June 11, 2023.

[*] **Booklet#1 - 2020 Initial Introductory Booklet of the J.U.C. Awards:** <https://www.lightmillennium.org/juc-awards/concept-definition-timeline-quideline-nd-potential-scholarship.pdf>

[**] **Story of the “J.U.C. M-R-W-A” Awards – January 2020:** <https://lightmillennium.org/juc-awards/juc-media-research-writing-awards-story.pdf>

BIOS OF THE WINNERS ~ THE 2023 J.U.C. AWARDS

THE AWARD FOR OVERALL EXCELLENCE

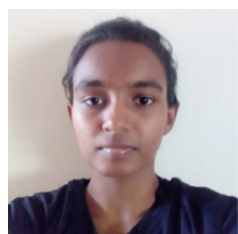


Overall Overall Excellence Award: Mr. MUHAMMET ALI TURAN | Writing#7/Türkiye100: “Same Mindset in Different Centuries”

School Name / Class: Şehit Velit Bekdaş Anatolian High School, Ankara / Turkey

My name is Muhammet Ali Turan. I am from Turkey. I am seventeen years old, and an 11th-grade high school student at Şehit Velit Bekdaş Anatolian high school. I have two big brothers. I am living with my parents in Ankara. I always try to participate in projects that aim to make the world a better place. Last year, I went to France for an Erasmus+ funded project called “Our Common Future”, which aims to educate us about a sustainable environment and its importance. I want to be a part of this event because it has so much potential to achieve the things I want to achieve.

Category: MEDIA



First Place: Ms. KAVISHA AMANDI JAYARATHNE | M#1: “See the Human” (Gender Equality)

Whyteleafe Performing Arts Academy, Sri Lanka

Colombo, Sri Lanka.

School – Whyteleafe Performing Arts Academy

Since I was 3 or 4 years old I started drawing and it became a passion of mine through these years. In this time period I was able to try out various visual art styles such as drawing and painting, live painting performances, sculpting, photography, videography and stop motion art. Other than visual art which is my main interest, I am a kandyan dancer (a traditional dancer in Sri Lanka) and nowadays trying to practice pop dance. Also I'm very much interested in singing. Even though I'm not good at it yet, I'm trying my best to improve. Whyteleafe Performing Arts Academy became a bigger part of my life because it was a great platform to showcase my talents and polish them. Also I learned to take opportunities, utilize them and build teamwork from my school as I was a bit shy in the beginning. With the help of my school, I hope I would be able to unlock new talents and paths in my life in the future.

Second Place: Ms. R.A. RUKHSHANA M#2: “My Favorite SDG#7”



Velammal Vidyalaya, CBSE, Chennai, India

This is R.A.Rukhshana pursuing grade 11 in Velammal Vidyalaya , CBSE, Chennai and also is a member of (The Institution of Green Engineer) IGEN YGIN ARME . I am the daughter of Dr.L.Ramesh (professor) and P.Anitha (Housemaker) . I am currently working on SDG Goal number 13 (Climate action) along with my team in IGEN . I had participated in the making of the FEMTO Satellite, launched in Rameshwaram on 7th February 2019, which is recognized by the Guinness World Record. I applied to the Indian government for a patent for a “Graphene catalyst converter.”

Category: RESEARCH



First Place: Ms. SİMAY YÜKSEL | R#5 Title: “Stem Cells: A Promising Hope for the Future”

Research Theme: What are your visions and expectations for the next wave of scientific achievements? (STEM Cell)

TED College, Ankara, Türkiye

My name is Simay Yüksel. I am 17, and I live in Ankara with my mother. I am in the 11th grade, and I go to TED Ankara College with a 100% financial scholarship. One of my biggest dreams for my future is to study molecular biology and contribute to humans' lives. For this purpose, I study very hard with the determination to make my dreams a reality by taking inspiration from Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Being a “daughter” of him gives me motivation and power to follow my goals to contribute to my country. Like he said: “Patriotism is measured by the service one gives to one's nation.” At this point, this competition gave me an opportunity to come closer to achieving my dreams and exploring my potential.



THE 2023 J.U.C. MEDIA, RESEARCH & WRITING AWARDS

Virtual Award Ceremony: Saturday, June 17



A special category dedicated to: The 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye
In Loving Memory of J.U.C.



Second Place: Ms. JYOTI KUMARI | R#2: “Covid-19, A Disastrous Invention of the 21st Century”

St. Paul’s Modern School, Bokaro Thermal, Jharkhand, India

Ms. Kumari completed her Matriculation in 2022, from St. Paul’s Modern School, Bokaro Thermal, Bokaro, Jharkhand (India). She is in class XII at present in the same school on the Humanities track. She occasionally writes articles and short stories. **Assets:** Positive Thinking, Confident, Amiable, Believer of ‘Teamwork’, Secular views, Patience and Perseverance **Career Objectives:** To meticulously endeavor to achieve the aspired, time bound goals of organization for growth and excellence through multi-dimensional approach. To bring out the best of individual capabilities by applying innovative techniques, methods and basic principles of success.



Third Place: Mr. S. PERINBA ATHIBAN | R#4 – “Artificial Intelligence: The Shining Star of Modern Technology”

Research Theme: Is Artificial Intelligence an Angel or Demon?

XII Standard in Velammal Vidyalaya, Ayanambakkam, Chennai, India

I am S. Perinba Athiban. I’m studying in the XII Standard in Velammal Vidyalaya, Ayanambakkam, Chennai. My hobby is playing , and I am a Chess player. I’ve participated in many chess tournaments including a national level competition and received the gold medal for both the local and national levels. My ambition is to become an engineer, and I wish to study computer science with artificial intelligence. I have a strong background in satellite development where I got training and participated in the femto satellite launching at Rameswaram. I received the Limca awards and entered the Guinness record for this. I am also a member of the IGEN YGIN ARME as an innovator. I’ve been working with this organization for more than two years. I’m very happy to share that I have filed a patent in the “waste to wealth” topic.



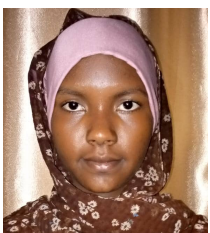
• WATER ACTION



Third Place: Mr. NJIKENG TEBONG-JUNIOR WAA#2: “Stop Deforestation in Connection with Groundwater”,

St. Theresa collages Molyko Buea, Cameroon

My name is NJIKENG TEBONG JUNIOR. I am a Cameroonian by origin, I am 15 years old, and study at the St. Theresa collages Molyko Buea. I am a lower sixth art student specializing in A2 which comprises Geography, History, Economics with the additional subject of English. What I like doing most as a student is reading novels and story books. I also like and enjoy playing football. I dislike it when people make too much noise, tell lies and affect their friends negatively. In addition, I enjoy and like being inquisitive about learning at every given opportunity of my life. Aiming for a high score has been what I do because I always want to obtain high scores. For example, when I wrote the GCE ordinary level after registering for 11 subjects, I scored 7 papers out of the 11 registered papers. Preparing to go in for the advanced level next academic year, I plan to register for 4 subjects, and I aim to have at least 3 papers. What I like about this program is that it has given me the opportunity to showcase my ability to participate in a competition like this, helping me deepen my research skills. Moreover, it will also help me increase my ability to be always inquisitive, to learn new things, and to add to my knowledge. This is who and what I am; thanks.



Second Place: Ms. FATIME ABAKAR OUSMANE WAA#1: “Water For All”

Féminin High School level 1ere Scientific from Ndjamen, Chad

Farime Abakar Ousmane is a young female climate activist and a pupil at the high school Féminin in level 1^{ere} Scientific in Ndjamen, Chad. Born on November 4th, 2004, Fatime has always been passionate about protecting the environment and raising awareness about the impacts of climate change. At the age of 13, Fatime started learning English through the Access Program FY17, which gave her the opportunity to improve her language skills and gain confidence in communicating her ideas to a global audience. In 2022, Fatime participated in the W2W international program in Boston, USA, where she had the chance to further develop her leadership skills and expand her network of like-minded individuals. Fatime is committed to raising awareness about the urgent need for climate action in Chad and beyond. Despite her young age, Fatime has already made a significant impact in her community and beyond. She serves as an inspiration to other young people who are passionate about protecting the environment and creating a more sustainable future.

BIOS OF THE WINNERS ~ THE 2023 J.U.C. AWARDS

First Place: Ms. **EMİNE KARAMAN** #WAA3 (W3/G): “**Water as a Source of Life**” (Shorty Story)



Darüşşafaka High School, İstanbul, Türkiye

My name is Emine Karaman. I am from Kütahya, Turkey. I live with my older sister and my mother. I am currently studying at the Darüşşafaka High School as a ninth grader. I had participated in art, robotic codes and ceramic clubs in my previous school years. Also, I have been in MUN club since this school year and even attended a conference as a delegate. After school, I've had volleyball practice twice a week since grade five. I have also taken part in folklore dancing competitions for over five years. I played the piano for almost three years, but I had to quit it this year. I am interested in physics, chemistry, biology and I am considering concentrating on these subjects when in college. I've had a lot of opportunities to create nice memories with my

friends and family since the beginning of high school. However, my favorite memory is when I went to Izmir for a school trip and learned a lot about its history and had fun with my friends.

Category: WRITING / GENERAL – Essay – Short Story

First Place: Mr. **EREN KORUYAN** | **WG#4: “Dedicated To All Those Striving For Freedom”** (Short Story)



Theme: Ancient Civilizations

Darüşşafaka High School, İstanbul, Türkiye

My name is Eren Koruyan. I was born in Bursa, Turkey. When I got in Darüşşafaka, I moved to İstanbul. I have an older sister and my mother. My father passed away in 2010. I used to be member of the middle school basketball team. I made a science project along with two other friends for TUBİTAK. One of my favorite moments from high school was when most of the boys in our year made a fashion show and when we all wore suits for a party that day. Through most of my time in high school, the only subject that I ever struggled in was English, so I consider it my favorite. I plan to study Digital Game Design in Bahçeşehir University

when I graduate.

Second Place: Ms. **RANEESHA JAYARATNE**



WG#9 – Theme: “If you became the President of the World...”

Whyteleafe Performing Arts Academy, Sri Lanka

My name is Raneesha Hasindi Jayaratne. I turned 14 on the 21st of December 2022 and I am in grade 9. I am from a small country called Sri Lanka. I come from a Christian background and my whole family is born-again Christians. When I was young, I always wanted to write like my mother. She inspired me to write as I have seen her posts on Facebook. I also have an elder sister who is 2 years older than me. I am currently doing many extra activities in my school and outside of school. I like music a lot. I heard of this opportunity from Whyteleafe academy, and I am extremely grateful that I got the opportunity

to participate in this huge competition.

Third Place: Ms. **ZEYNEP ÖZDEMİR** | **W15/G: “A Boarding School in Space”** (Short Story)



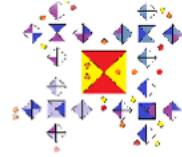
Darüşşafaka High School, İstanbul, Türkiye

I'm Zeynep Özdemir. I was born in 2008, in İstanbul and I'm still living there with my mother. I completed my primary school in İstanbul and continue to attend middle school in the same city. I am studying at Darüşşafaka as a 9th grade student right now. I'm interested in space and technology. Furthermore, my dream is to become a space engineer. I am both into math and science. I participate in a club that is based on finding out new formulas in math. I joined the competition which is organized by TUBİTAK with this project. I also write stories. I was a second place winner in the Fakir Baykurt Story Contest, which I participated in 2020; and received the third place prize in the Nakiyye Elgün National Story Contest in 2022. I hope to

participate in various competitions and get more awards in the future.



The
LIGHT MILLENNIUM
Charitable Global Human Advancement Organization
Associated with the United Nations Department of
Global Communications



SPECIAL AWARD FOR NEPAL (Writing/General)



Special Award: Mr. MANDIP RAM KUMAR | W5/G: “Equality”

Shree Nepal Rastriya National School, Mahuwan, Parsa, Nepal

School Name :- Shree Nepal Rastriya National School Mahuwan, Parsa Nepal

I am Mandip Kumar, son of Premnath Ram, living in the Dalit settlement of Mahuwan village, Ward-5, in the Sakhuwaprasauni rural municipality, Parsa district. I am a Dalit student from a Dalit family. I am attending the 11 th grade in the Nepal National Secondary School Mahuwan. My age is 19 years. I like to study education. I study in a village school. I also have to work. The financial situation of our house is weak. We work as daily wage earners. My father earns a lot of grief. There is a problem of getting daily food at home. Mother also works in other people's houses. I have a problem with my studies. I want to grow up in a society that offers good education to everyone. My life is a struggle. I am active in social transformation.

Category: WRITING/Türkiye100 | #Türkiye100

Dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of Republic of Türkiye (29 October 1923 – 29 October 2023)

First Place: Ms. DURU BÜYÜKBAŞARAN | W1/TR100: “Peace at Home, Peace in the World”



Ankara University Developmental Foundation Private Anatolian High School (ANKÜ), Ankara, Türkiye

Duru Büyükbaşaran is an 11th Grade student at the Ankara University Developmental Foundation Private Anatolian High School in Ankara, Turkey. Art and academia coexist as her passions in life. She feels fulfilled through understanding her identity and the world around her, and when she expresses the knowledge she gains through all creative mediums, especially writing and painting. She sees herself in the future as a well-rounded individual who has developed herself in all the fields she is passionate about- art, literature, law, international relations, humanitarianism, and social advocacy. She aspires to be a scholar, leader, and a creative inspiration, sharing her expertise to be able one day to relay her wisdom to a blossoming

generation.



Second Place: Mr. BATURALP ASLAN - WTR#2: “Naiveté of Vision”

TED Ankara College Foundation Private High School, Ankara, Türkiye

I am Baturalp Aslan, an 11th grader at TED Ankara College High School. I've been playing basketball for a long time and have taken place in the national team, youth league, and so on. I am especially interested in contemporary Turkish history, therefore, found the opportunity of submitting a piece regarding our founding father Atatürk very valuable and rewarding. I would like to study physics, to learn about the universe we live in instead of putting my labor into building more buildings upon it. Whether my submission receives an award or not, I will always be grateful for this opportunity to express my thoughts on our cherished Republic and its establishment.

Third Place: Ms. HAMİDE BEGÜM YILDIZ | WTR#5: “A Look at the Treatment of Turkish Women Throughout the Years”

Darüşşafaka High School, Istanbul, Türkiye



My name is Hamide Begüm Yıldız. I am going to 11th grade in Darüşşafaka. I was born in Eskisehir but because of my boarding school I mostly spend my year in Istanbul. My parents had moved to Fethiye a year ago so in my holidays I visited there. My father works at a diving boat and thanks to him I was able to get my own one star diving license which allows me to dive up to 18 meters with another diver. Back in school I'm a part of the badminton club and this year we got 4th place in Istanbul tournaments so we had the chance to go to Bolu to represent Istanbul for the Turkey Group Tournaments. My favorite subject is probably chemistry because we learn a lot of new things and they're mostly fun.

SPECIAL AWARD GIVEN BY THE ATATURK SOCIETY OF AMERICA
For the 100th Anniversary of Republic of Türkiye

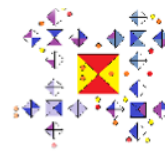


Special Award: Ms. ELİF YILMAZ | W#3/TR100 – “The 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Turkey”

Darüşşafaka High School, İstanbul, Türkiye

My name is Elif Yılmaz. I live in Balıkesir, Turkey with my little brother, sister, my grandparents and my father. I am in the math studies club and I have entered a national math project called TÜBİTAK. I am also on the basketball team of the school and I love going to games. I can play the flute and I am still taking some lessons to be more advanced. High school is very special for me since I had some unforgettable memories with my friends even from the first year of it and I can't even imagine how it will be like in the following years. I especially love the times when we hang out together, and travel around the city by going to the seaside and to different museums. My favorite subjects are chemistry, math and English at school as I am really interested in these topics. I am not certain about what I will do in the future at this point, but considering what I am good at, I can say that I want to study science and become a scientist in the future.





BRIEF BIO OF THE CHAIR, HOST, PRESENTERS & HONORARY SPEAKERS & MEMBERS OF THE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Ambassador RODRIGO A. CARAZO, Chair, Opening Remarks

Mr. Carazo, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations in New York (2018 – 2022); currently member of the UN Human Rights Council (Geneva), 2022 President of UNICEF's Executive Board, and Chair of the 2023 J.U.C. Awards Evaluation Committee

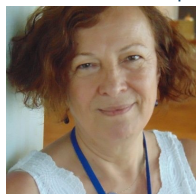


Professional development in the public sector includes: first Ombudsman of the Republic of Costa Rica (1993-1997); Member of the Legislative Assembly (2002-2006). Professional development in the private sector includes: being a liberal professional since 1971 in the fields of Economy, Law and International Relations. He has also served as a consultant for International Organizations (Government, Intergovernmental, Non-Governmental) as well as for private entities. He has 48 years of experience as a businessman in commercial, industrial, tourist, agricultural and service sectors.

Academic background includes: serving as a university professor in Costa Rica and the United States; Member of the Board of the public Distance University in Costa Rica; he holds a Law Degree from the University of Costa Rica and a similar degree in Economic and Social Sciences from the University of Costa Rica, a PhD in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Geneva- Switzerland and has completed further studies in History and International Law. He speaks Spanish, English and French. Ambassador Carazo is 75 years old, married, father of 4 daughters and grandfather of 11 grandchildren.

BİRCAN ÜNVER, M.A.

Bircan is an independent TV Producer, Originator, Founder-President and Head Representative of The Light Millennium, a Charitable Global Human Advancement Organization (2001, NY, LMGlobal.Org) to the United Nations Department of Global Communications (UN-DGC-CSO); and Executive Producer of #LightMillenniumTV since January 2000; Content Provider at QPTV since 1992; Co-founder of the Turkish Library & Museum's vision & Ambassador of Peace and Goodwill for Anuvrat (Anuvibha) Global Organization (since 2014, India); and Member of the Global Movement for the Culture of Peace (GMCoP, an NGO platform at the U.N. since 2012). Bircan has undertaken LMGlobal's e-publications, public programs, and Light Millennium TV Series and Specials' in all aspects since January 2000; also all UN-related activity and programs since 2005. Also, she is the founder-president of the IsikBinyili.Org Association (Turkish counterpart of the LMGlobal.Org) based in Istanbul, Türkiye (01/2010). Author of: "*En Kutsalı Yaratmak*" (1995, 2022), "*Sanatın Labirentlerinde*" (2016), "*İşık Yollarında*" (poetry, 2017) and "*Bin Yıl Daha*" (2020) in Turkish. Holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Degree from the Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University (Istanbul, 1988) and a Master's Degree (M.A.) from Media Studies of the New School University (New York City 1999). *She is mother of Barış Ünver and John Ünver Culkın, and has two granddaughters.*



Mr. RAMU DAMODARAN, First Chief of the United Nations Academic Impact Initiative (2010-21), Opening Remarks

Ramu Damodaran joined the United Nations Department of Global Communications in 1996; his responsibilities in the Department have included oversight of relationships with civil society, the creative community and celebrity advocates, publications (including as Chief Editor of the UN Chronicle), the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the United Nations Academic Impact which he was asked by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to devise and lead. He has also been secretary of the United Nations General Assembly's Committee on Information since 2011. He completed his career with the United Nations in May 2021.

His earlier Secretariat assignments included the Departments of Special Political Questions and Peacekeeping as well as speechwriting in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. He was spokesman for the "Durban Review" human rights conference in 2009 and has fulfilled a range of speaking engagements on behalf of the Organization over his career.

As a member of the Indian Foreign Service, where he was promoted to the rank of ambassador, he served as executive assistant to the Prime Minister of India between 1991 and 1994 and earlier in the Ministries of External Affairs, Home Affairs, Defence, Planning and Human Resource Development. Before joining government service in India, he worked as a television news anchor, radio producer and host, and university correspondent for All India Radio and the Hindustan Times Evening News. His radio feature on university students in Delhi won the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union award. Ramu also served as President of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council.



SİBEL EROL , Member of the 2023 Evaluation Committee

Sibel Erol holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of California, Berkeley.



She has taught comparative literature, women's studies and Turkish at UC, Berkeley and Washington University in Saint Louis before joining New York University where she's a professor of Middle Eastern Studies and has been teaching Turkish language and literature since 1998. She works on nationalism, women authors, the modern novel and film. She's published numerous essays on a variety of authors ranging from Orhan Pamuk, Yakup Kadri, Reşat Nuri, Ömer Seyfettin to Halide Edib, Adalet Ağaoğlu, Sevgi Soysal and Nazlı Eray among others as well as book reviews, prefaces and encyclopedia articles both in English and Turkish. Her most recent publication is an edited collection of articles on Orhan Pamuk's novel Snow: Kar Üzerine Yazılar (Writings on Snow). This volume, which brings together the Turkish translations of major articles and reviews written on the novel, came out in October 2021

Dr. SERPİL TUNÇER, Ph.D., Board Member and Head of History and Culture Commission at Darüşşafaka Foundation

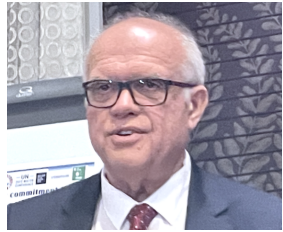
Following her graduation from the Political Sciences Faculty, Public Relations Department of İstanbul University, Serpil Tunçer got a Master's degree at the American Culture and Literature Department, Institute of Social Sciences at İstanbul University. Her MA Thesis was titled, "Feminine Gothic in Joyce Carol Oates' Short Fiction". She got her doctoral degree based on her work, titled, "Postmodern Ethics: The Ethical Problematic of the Individual in Don DeLillo's Work". After attending the American Gothic Literature, Postmodern American Literature and Translation classes at the department of American Culture and Literature, İstanbul University, She lectured at the Linguistics department of İstanbul University, having recommended for the first time, the "Ecolinguistic" classes which have provided a wide world view for students relating the vital ecological problems of the planet. Her research fields are Sociolinguistics, Ecolinguistics, and Cultural Ecology.

Besides various articles in scientific magazines, she translated, "The European Myths of Orient" by Rana Kabbani, "The Fall of the Public Man", by Richard Sennett, "Matmazel Paradies", by Brian O'Doherty, into Turkish.

She is the author of the book, "Yaşayan Mazimiz: Darüşşafaka" (Our Lively Past: Darüşşafaka).

She retired in September, 2022. She is a board member at Darussafaka Society and is studying on an ecolinguistic introductory book for Turkish students.

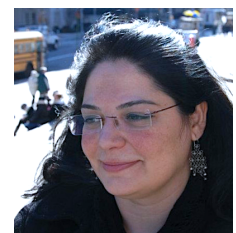
OLCAY ÜNVER, Professor of Practice, Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering, Polytechnic School, Environmental and Resource Management Program, Arizona State University; Member, Water Policy Group & Vice-Chair, United Nations-Water (2018-2020)



Prof. Ünver is a global leader in water policy. He is currently Professor of Practice at Environmental and Resource Management Program at Arizona State University, and member of Water Policy Group. He served as Vice Chair of UN-Water from 2018 to 2020, and is senior water advisor to Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. In his public service career spanning three decades, he led FAO's water programs and activities, UN-Water's World Water Assessment Programme, and UNESCO's Program Office on Global Water Assessment. Prior to joining the United Nations, he was a distinguished professor of water resources at Kent State University, Ohio and President of the Southeastern

Anatolia Project in Turkey, where he transformed a large infrastructure project into a sustainable socioeconomic development program. In 1999, he was listed among the 19 "European Visionaries" by Time Magazine and was featured in New York Times for his efforts towards sustainable, human-centered development. He served as Secretary General and Vice President of IWRA, and Governor and Treasurer of World Water Council. He has served on boards and committees involving water, sustainable development, sustainable food and agriculture systems, water cooperation and policy. Olcay holds civil engineering degrees that include a PhD in water resources planning and management, master's in urban hydrology and bachelor's with hydraulics focus. His areas of competence include water and food security; bridging across global frameworks; governance of water-land-soil resources, and water cooperation. Olcay is an associate editor for Frontiers' Water-Smart Food Systems and on the editorial board of Water Security Journal (Elsevier) and Future of Food Journal (Kassel University, Germany). He is a NATO Scholar, IWRA (International Water Resources Association) Fellow, and a TUBITAK (Turkish Scientific & Technical Research Council) Honor Fellow.

HANDE SUBASILAR, PhD. Art Historian, Former General Secretary of The Light Millennium Global, and Advisory Board Member.



Hande Subasilar was born and raised in Istanbul, Turkey. She received her B.A. degree from Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Department of Art History and was accepted as a graduate student to the Istanbul Technical University Department of Social Sciences Art History Program where she received her M.A. and PhD. She gave lectures at several universities in Turkey including Istanbul Technical University and Istanbul Kultur University, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University between 2005-2010. Dr. Subasilar is currently teaching art history classes at Caldwell University, New Jersey, USA.



ALEXANDER ECOS, Pianist

Alexander Ecos is 19 year old, student at George Washington University in Washington DC, School of Electrical Engineering. He started piano at 5 years old at School for Strings at as an extracurricular program, graduating from there after 13 years of studies. He enjoys playing the piano, listening classical music and attending music concerts. Next year he will joint at his current school to a Chamber group in order to be connected to the piano.



MUSTAFA ALP CAN, Student, Volunteer at LMGlobal.Org

Hello, my name is Mustafa Alp Can and I'm a student at Nutley High School, Over the past couple of years I've volunteered at other areas as well educating myself to the Ataturk Turkish School in New York, where I learned my own native language, Turkish. I also attended a dance school in New York. My passion for dance has become huge part of my life starting from the age of 5. On the other hand I love to swim, being enrolled to the YMCA swimming school in Montclair. As well as attending art classes at the Montclair Art Museum, which helped me get better at the true form of visual arts. Besides those, I enjoy playing basketball, hanging out with friends, art, going to museums, traveling to other countries and more

SUDE ÇAPOĞLU, 2021 First Place Winner in Writing Category



Ms. Çapođlu was born in 2004 in Ankara, Türkiye. She graduated from TED Ankara College Foundation High School in 2022 with a dual degree in International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme as well as Turkish Anatolian High School Diploma. She is an incoming penultimate year law student at the University of Bristol in the UK. She is the Vice President of the University of Bristol Law Club and the Student Trustee at the Board of Trustees of Bristol Student Union. She plays tennis and enjoys playing the classical guitar in her spare time.

KORKMAZ CAN SAĐLAM, Pianist

Turkish pianist Can Sađlam is the Grand Prize winner of the 2021–2022 Vendome Prize for Piano, where he also won the CD Recording Prize and the Audience Prize. Can Sađlam has performed in concert halls such as Morgan Library & Museum's Gilder Lehrman Hall in New York, Wiener Saal in Salzburg, and in other venues in cities such as Paris, Nice, Brussels, Cleveland, Verona and Istanbul. He has appeared in festivals such as the Gümüşlük Classical Music Festival, Antalya Piano Festival and Bellapais Music Festival. Highlights of the 2022/23 season include appearances with the Borusan Philharmonic, Cayman Arts Festival and Bellapais Music Festival.



Born in 1999 in Ankara, he began his musical education with Gamze Kirtil at the Bilkent University's Music and Ballet Primary School at the age of seven. After studying with Antonio Pompa-Baldi and Sergei Babayan at the Cleveland Institute of Music, he received his bachelor's degree from The Juilliard School, where he was a recipient of the Ahmet Ertegun Memorial Scholarship and the Susan W. Rose Piano Fellowship twice. In 2018, he was accepted as a scholar of "Young Musicians on World Stages" (YMWS), led by Güher-Süher Pekinel. During his studies, he has had the chance to work with musicians such as Jacques Rouvier, Pavel Gililov, Boris Berman, Ilya Itin, Michel Beroff, Jean-Francois Heisser and Emanuel Ax. He is currently pursuing graduate studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music under the direction of Maestro Babayan.

His first studio album, featuring works by Scriabin, Handel, Adès and Rachmaninoff will be released by the Sono Luminus label in 2023.

GÜLGÜN KARAMETE, Ataturk Society of America - ASA Secretary



Gulgun Aray Karamete is a professional actress and acting instructor.

Gulgun graduated from the Ankara State Conservatory Theater Department in 1992 and performed at the Turkish National Theater until 1998. After earning her M.A. in Theater from SUNY Albany in 2001, she worked as an adjunct professor for 10 years. She now teaches Theater courses at Northern Virginia Community College.

Concluding Remarks by Professor Emeritus, GARY GROSSMAN, Ph.D., the School for the Future of Innovation in Society, College of Global Futures at Arizona State University, offers more than three decades of experience in the development and management of social, education, technology, and employment and training projects in the United States and abroad.



Experienced in the administration of World Bank, U.S. Government and privately funded projects, Professor Grossman also led the development of and directed a unique transdisciplinary, transnational major in ASU's Master of Science in Technology program. This degree concentration, entitled 'Global Technology and Development' (GTD), features the combined perspectives of social science research and emerging technological models and is aimed at providing students an opportunity to explore the critical questions of globalization, commerce, sustainable development, information technology, transportation, education, and biotechnology which affect all nations. The program is designed to empower students to help guide and direct those impacts.

Professor Grossman is internationally recognized for leadership in his areas of interest and has built his career on the mutuality of interests between higher education and the needs of the society of which it is a part, both in his native country and around the world. Professor Grossman was awarded two consecutive Fulbright Grants (2002-2004) and spent that period engaged in research and teaching at Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. He recently returned from a sabbatical stationed in Rome, Italy, working as a Visiting Scientist with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO). His current research concerns the implementation efficacy of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) globally, with a particular focus in the nations of Central Asia and the potential contribution of the SDGs to social, economic, and political development at global, national, and community levels.

MILDRED VAN BERGEN, Ph.D., Director of Academic Support Services for the Long Island location of Empire State University

Has been the Director of Academic Support Services for the Long Island location of Empire State University for 14 years. Mildred has a B.A. in Cultural Studies, M.A in Liberal Studies and a PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities and Culture. She also holds a graduate certificate in Creative Writing. She has taught Intro to College Reading and Writing, Tools and Strategies for Academic Success, Women and Girls in the Media and Seminar in Pre-Graduate Studies. Mildred has presented her scholarship at academic conferences including:

- Union Institute and University Women's Initiative: Women and Power Luncheon, July 2012" T he Effects of Media Upon Aspiring Women Entrepreneurs"
- Presentation for PhD Cohort at Union Institute & University January 2013: "Social Change and Film"
- Popular Culture Association, American Culture Association Conference in Chicago Ill April 2014 "Punk Culture: Resisting Norms of Femininity"
- SUNY Council on Writing Annual Conference, Syracuse NY Sept 2014 "Thinking Outside the Classroom: Post Traditional Writing pedagogies for Non -Traditional Students"
- Brookhaven Town Women's Conference Brookhaven NU October 2014: "Women Empowering Women"
- "Punk History: Resisting Gender Norms of Femininity" in The Journal of Literature and Art Studies. Issue 7 Vol. 9 July 2019 pg. 717-725.

Prof. EDWARD FOSTER, Poet, Critic, and Scholar, a retired Dean and Professor at the Stevens Institute of Technology.



Edward Foster is a poet, critic, and scholar, a retired dean and professor at the Stevens Institute of Technology. He has taught at Hacettepe University, Istanbul University, and Beykent. He edits the journal Talisman and is the president of Pioneer Valley Poetry Productions (PVPP), which sponsors yearly festivals of contemporary poetry. His most recent book, A Looking-Glass for Traytors, was published this year by Marsh Hawk Press. Further, Foster was responsible for organizing or co-organizing several Turkish/American events with the Light Millennium.

WINNERS OF THE 2021 J.U.C. AWARDS



The Receipts of the 2021 J.U.C. Awards are: MEDIA

1. **First Place Winner: ZAINAB BIE**, “My Favorite SDG”, High School, Delhi, India.

2. **Second Place Winner: KORKMAZ CAN SAĞLAM**, U. Freshman, NYC, USA.

3. **Third Place Winner: DEEPAK KUMAR, MBA.**, “The Impact of SDG-4 & 6 For Betterment of Society and Youth”, Graduate, Purnea India.

– **Encouragement Award: AHMET YASİR DESTEBAŞI**, “My Favorite SDG”, İstanbul, Turkey.

The listed Media Projects are available via the following link:

<https://www.lmglobal.org/2021/05/12/2021-jucawards-submission-list-the-2021-j-u-c-media-research-writing-awards/>

THE 2021 WINNERS IN RESEARCH

1. **First Place Winner: SEVİNÇ ORMAN**, “Stem Cell: Biology to Stem Cell Therapy Challenges”, High School, İstanbul, Turkey.

2. **Second Place Winner: NAZLI EREN**, “Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights”, High School, İstanbul, Turkey.

3. **Third Place Winner: ZEYNEP BAYRAKTAR**, “The World of the Coronavirus”, High School, İstanbul, Turkey .

– **Encouragement Award: KAIF ALİ**, “Resilience o Impending Architecture Amid Covid-19 Pandemic - A Cause To Hope”, Delhi, India.

WRITING

1. **First Place Winner: SUDE ÇAPOĞLU**, “*Moral Compass*” High School (17 years old), Ankara, Turkey.

2. **Second Place: BEGÜM SERTTAŞ**, “*Our Future-Nature*” High School (16 years old), İstanbul, Turkey.

3. **Third Place: ESMA NUR SARI**, “*Finding the Lost*”, High School (15 years old), İstanbul, Turkey.

– **Encouragement Award: MENEKŞE EZGİ AKYOL**, “*Madame President*”, İstanbul, Turkey.

– **Encouragement Award: DİDEM ÖZDEMİR**, “*Human Rights, Environment, and Armament in the World*”, Ankara, Turkey.

<https://www.lmglobal.org/2021/05/27/we-have-the-winners-the-2021-juc-media-research-and-writing-awards/>

WHAT IS NEXT? #JUCAwards2025 #JUCMRWA2025

1. The 2025 J.U.C. Media, Research & Writing Awards – Projected next Award Ceremony Date:

Saturday in June 2025;

2. Issue a related News/Media Release, or summary of the event, post it to www.lmglobal.org and/or www.turkishlibrary, and share it extensively in Spring 2024;

3. Accept submissions via email in Word document for media project (12 font), via link or .mp4 file by February 28, 2025.

4. Post all submissions/make all submitted media/art projects available in April/May 2025; (whether this process will be OPEN or NOT to the general public [within Board and/or potentially collaborated partners] to be determined).

5. Announce all the posted pieces in May, 2025

6. Announce all the winners on May 30, 2025, or during the first week of June 2025.



THE 2023 J.U.C. MEDIA, RESEARCH & WRITING AWARDS

Virtual Award Ceremony: Saturday, June 17



A special category dedicated to: The 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye
In Loving Memory of J.U.C.

Related J.U.C. Book Project for 2024 and/or 2025

1. **Compilation of J.U.C.'s ideas**, both published and unpublished, for a printed-book project that will set out the ground for the following projects; all proceeds will go to the Awards project. J.U.C.'s writings and biography will be compiled in a book, printed min. 250 copies up to 1000 copies, to be presented to all the participants/award recipients and co-sponsors of the Awards Ceremony in June 2025.

2. The envisioned Book project will be in 3 chapters:

- His early posted works along with not posted works (till age 12/13),
- His essays, short story, interview, etc.,
- Dedicated pieces/anecdotes/memories on/about him.

Any proceeds from his book will go directly to the Awards project, which will also set out a ground and model for following years, making submitted works, awarded and selected ideas available to be compiled and printed in a book project as well. Its online version might be available following the next Awards.

2. **Target 2024:** The 2021 and 2023 awarded written pieces and related news release, presented pieces during the virtual award ceremony, all together will be compiled for a book project to be printed-and-presented during the next Award Ceremony, which is projected to be presented in June 2025..

As long as The Light Millennium, Inc. is able to secure the required sponsorship/funding, the compilation of submitted works within an ongoing book project/publication on a bi-annual ground to be presented during each or every other Awards Ceremony will be one of the main expected OUTCOMES/ongoing products of this awards/scholarship project.

Please kindly follow related updates via www.lmglobal.org and www.turkishlibrary.us websites and through via the following social media pages:

LinkedIn @The Light Millennium - @Bircan Unver | Facebook @lightmillennium - | Twiter @lightmillennium - @bircanunver |

Instagram@unverbircan

Or email to: JUCAwards@lightmillennium.org

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The Light Millennium, Inc. – A Charitable Global Human Advancement Organization [LMGlobal.Org] has sustained a good standing as

an associated NGO with the United Nations Department of Global Communications (formerly, UN-DPI since 2005): The Organization publishes online issues, organizes public events, produces-and-presents television programs on the local channels (LMTV #LightMillenniumTV) and develops/presents various concepts in multi-platforms. It was introduced on the Web in 1999, and officially founded with a #501-c-3 tax-exempt status in New York in 2001 by Bircan Ünver.

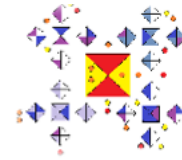
The LMGlobal.Org mainly has been focused on public awareness via multi-media platforms, has encouraged active participants from the all walks of life and promotes the following matters within its capacity as a 'rights based' organization, based on its initial 2001 Purposes such as: Human Advancement, Democracy-Equality-Justice, Fostering World Peace, Freedom of Expression, Encouraging Intellectual Productivity, Girls-Women Rights, Cultural Diversity, Advancing Culture of Peace, and Global Connectivity...

The Organization "Amended–and–Broadened" its 2001 Certificate of Incorporation, and gained a new capacity towards becoming a 'service' and 'right' based organization, effective on of **December 17, 2019**.

The LMGlobal.Org is a non-religious, non-political, not-for-profit (501-c-3), non-governmental (NGO), and independent secular organization. Officially formed in 2001, located in Queens, New York, online presence since August 1999.

www.lmglobal.org | www.lightmillennium.org 2001 MISSION: http://www.lightmillennium.org/lm_mission.html





Members of the EVALUATION COMMITTEE:

- *Chair of the Committee:* **Ambassador Rodrigo A. Carazo**, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations (2018-2022)

Members:

- **Prof. Olcay Ünver**, Professor of Practice, Polytechnic Sch ERM Prgm., Senior Global Futures Scientist, Global Futures Scientists and Scholars Affiliate, Melikian Center at Arizona State University, USA;
- **Prof. Sibel Erol**, Clinical Professor, Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, New York University, NY, USA;
- **Prof. Edward Foster**, *Professor* of History and Associate Dean for Administration in the College of Arts and Letters at the *Stevens Institute of Technology* (Retired);
- **Prof. Gunay Smith**, *Professor* of Biological and Chemical Sciences at Southside Virginia Community College (*Retired*);
- Professor of Emeritus Gary M. Grossman, Arizona State University, USA;
- **Hande Subasilar**, PhD., Adj. Assistant Professor, Caldwell University, NJ, USA;
- **Mildred VanBergen**, PhD., Director of Academic Support Services for the Long Island location of Empire State University, NY;
- **Bircan Ünver**, M.A., Author and Project Director, LMGlobal.Org, NY, USA;

- **Contributors to the Committee:** **Ms. Demet Demirkaya**, Board Member, LMGlobal.Org (Outreach);
Mr. Mustafa Alp Can (Certificates)

International Student Coordinators:

- Ms. Sude Çapoğlu**, Türkiye; Student Coordinator, 2021 First Place Recipient in *Writing* category;
- Mr. Deepak Kumar**, India Coordinator, LMGlobal.Org's Representative in India;
- Mr. Manoj Ram**, India Coordinator with Deepak Kumar;
- Mr. Lyonga Lewis**, Cameroon, LMGlobal.Org's Representative in Cameroon & Outreach Coordinator

RELATED LINKS:

Invitation & Tentative Program: Invitation to the 2023 J.U.C. Awards Ceremony & Tentative Programme for June 17

<https://www.lmglobal.org/2023/06/08/invitation-to-the-2023-j-u-c-awards-ceremony-tentative-programme-for-june-17/>

Media Release: LMGLOBAL.ORG Proudly Announces the Winners of the 2023 J.U.C. Media, Research & Writing Awards

<https://www.lmglobal.org/2023/06/01/lmglobal-org-proudly-announces-the-winners-of-the-2023-j-u-c-media-research-writing-awards/>

Save the Date for the 2023 Virtual Award Ceremony: <https://www.lmglobal.org/2023/05/14/save-the-date-the-2023-j-u-c-awards-ceremony-for-june-17-virtual/>

The List of the Eligible Submissions (May 7, 2023):

<https://www.lmglobal.org/2023/05/07/the-list-of-the-received-submissions-to-the-2023-j-u-c-awards/>

Water Action Decade: <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/water-and-sanitation/wateractiondecade#:~:text=In%20its%20resolution%2071%2F222,response%20to%20the%20ambitious%202030>

2022: Informative Meeting on the 2023 J.U.C. Awards – Live Webs-streamed on May 22, 2023 – Video: <https://vimeo.com/746768861>

The-2023 Guidelines:

<https://www.lmglobal.org/2022/04/24/the-2023-j-u-c-media-research-and-writing-awards-concept-definition-timeline-and-guideline/>

2021: The Winners Are... The 2021 J.U.C. Award Are Presented... <https://www.lmglobal.org/2021/06/12/the-winners-are-the-2021-juc-awards-presented/>

2020 Initial Introductory Booklet of the J.U.C. Awards:

<https://www.lightmillennium.org/juc-awards/concept-definition-timeline-guideline-and-potential-scholarship.pdf>

Story of the "J.U.C. M-R-W-A" Awards: <https://lightmillennium.org/juc-awards/juc-media-research-writing-awards-story.pdf>

Bilingual First Generation Immigrant - <http://www.turkishlibrary.us/a-bilingual-first-generation-immigrant/>

Becoming Bilingual - <http://www.turkishlibrary.us/becoming-bilingual/>

Watergates - <http://www.turkishlibrary.us/watergates/>

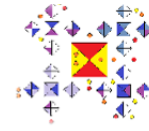
Mapping the Future of AI in the Dynamics of Civilization

Part-1: <http://www.turkishlibrary.us/mapping-the-future-of-ai-in-the-dynamics-of-civilization-part-1/>

Poem: Mr. Virus (2001) <https://www.lmglobal.org/2021/06/13/poem-mr-virus-by-john-unver-culkin/>

THE ISLANDS: "Recently the 8th Continent is discovered!" <https://www.lmglobal.org/2020/07/07/the-islands-recently-the-8th-continent-is-discovered/>

"Hope Never Fades" Banner, Lightmillennium.Org, 14th Issue (2004) - <https://lightmillennium.org/index16.html>



THE 2023 J.U.C. MEDIA, RESEARCH & WRITING AWARDS

Presented on Saturday, June 17, 2023

A special category dedicated to: **The 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye**
in Loving Memory of J.U.C

The 2023 Virtual Award Ceremony Organized & Presented by:

The Light Millennium, Inc. A Charitable Global Human Advancement Organization | LMGlobal.Org

Status# 501-c-3 – New York, 2001

Associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications (Since 2005)

SPECIAL THANKS TO: All Participated Students

- Honorary Speakers of the Award Ceremony
- The Chair and the Evaluation Committee of the 2023 J.U.C. Awards
- Participating Schools: Darüşşafaka High School (Türkiye),
- St. Paul Modern School (India),
- Whyteleaf Performing Arts Academy (Sri Lanka)
- Contributing Organizations: Institute of Green Engineers IGEN (India)
- Smiler4Millions (India)
- Formaly Dream Association (Chad)
- Atatürk Society of America

And:: • The Team at the UN Department of Global Communications
Civil Society Unit #UNDGC_CSU #WeeklyAnnouncements
#CivilSociety;
and • Turkish Forum

- Ms. EBRU ARPACI, General Director, Darüşşafaka Schools
- Ms. NİLÜFER KAVAKLI, Principal, Darüşşafaka High School
- Mr. DAVUT ÖKÜTÇÜ, Darüşşafaka Society
- Ms. BURCU TUNCEL, Darussafaka High School
- Mr. SİNAN SEDEN, Darussafaka High School
- Mr. NALAKA SWARNATHILAKE, Director;
- Ms. THARUSHI JAYATHILAKE, and
- Ms. KAUMADI ALAWATHUGODA, Whyteleaf Performing Arts
- Dr. L. RAMESH FIE, President, IGEN
- Mr. DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV, St. Paul's Modern School
- Mr. TANER ERTUNÇ & Mr. KAYA BÜYÜKATAMAN; and
- Ms. SELMİN ÇAPOĞLU

CONTACT via emails: JUCAwards@lightmillennium.org | CONTACT@lightmillennium.org

Your generous tax-exempt donations payable to:

The Light Millennium, Inc. with a note in the Memo section for the "J.U.C. Awards".

Mailing address: 87-82 115th Street, Richmond Hill, N.Y. 11418, USA.

Tel: 718-441-3816 (land-line) | Zoom: LMGlobal.Org

Websites: www.lmglobal.org | www.lightmillennium.org | www.turkishlibrary.us

Social Media: @The Light Millennium @TurkishLibraryMusum (LinkedIn) @lightmillennium #lightmillennium (Twitter and Facebook)

Hashtags #JUCAwards2023 | #JUCMRWA | #JUCAwards | #LMGlobalOrg | #Media | #Research | #Writing | #TR100 | #Türkiye100 | #WaterAction | #UNWithCivilSociety

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The 2023 J.U.C. Media, Research & Writing Awards – Award Ceremony Booklet #2023/3 | Final/June 15, 2023 | Website: www.LMGlobal.Org |
Email: JUCAwards@lightmillennium.org Organization: The Light Millennium, Charitable Global Human Advancement Organization | Status#501(c)3 | NY, 2001